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Job growth continues in May, but unemployment rises

OLYMPIA – Washington’s employers continued to add jobs in May despite an increase in the unemployment rate, Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee announced today.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, nonfarm payroll employment advanced 3,200 last month, following a similar gain in April. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate rose from 5.5 percent to 5.7 percent. The nation’s unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in May, down slightly from April.

“Labor market data was somewhat mixed in May,” Lee stated. “Still, widespread employment gains suggest that business activity remained solid in the state.”

On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, the state’s unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.4 percent.

Moreover, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 24,300 in May - with solid gains in private sector jobs augmented by a modest increase in government employment. Job additions were universal across major industrial classifications during the month, though certainly not uniform. Service-providing industries continued to account for the bulk of net new job creation, but there were strong gains in goods-producing sectors as well. Construction employment jumped by 4,600 on continued strength in residential construction. Washington’s factories added jobs again in May (1,800) even as manufacturing payrolls in the rest of the nation continued to shrink. Natural resources and mining employment inched up 300.

Leisure and hospitality again led the charge on the service-providing side, with firms adding 6,200 new jobs from April to May. Much of this increase was typical for the season. Retail employment advanced 2,900 and government employment rose by 2,100, rebounding from an April decline. Growth in professional and business services employment slowed to 1,900 in May, while firms engaged in private educational and health services added 1,500 jobs. Other services, financial activities, wholesale trade, and transportation, warehousing, and utilities also saw notable employment increases. Employment in information was up slightly from April.

Since last May, payroll employment in Washington increased 55,900, or 2.1 percent. The strongest gains were evident in professional and business services (+12,400), education and health services (+9,000), retail trade (+8,400), and construction (+8,000). Manufacturing employment increased 3,900 over the year, despite a loss of 2,600 jobs in nondurable goods industries. Information was still the only major sector to lose jobs since last May (500).

The number of unemployed workers fell 15,500 since last May. Employment Security encourages the 185,000 unemployed workers in Washington to visit a local WorkSource office and check online job listings at www.go2worksource.com.

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work ¹

| In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted | Numeric Change | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | May 2005 (Prel) | April 2005 (Rev) | May 2004 (Rev) | April 2004 (Rev) | Apr. 2005 to May 2005 | May 2004 to May 2005 |
| Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers | 2,761.8 | 2,737.5 | 2,705.9 | 2,683.9 | 24.3 | 55.9 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Logging | 5.5 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Construction | 171.2 | 166.6 | 163.2 | 159.0 | 4.6 | 8.0 |
| Construction of Buildings | 44.3 | 43.4 | 42.8 | 41.9 | 0.9 | 1.5 |
| Heavy and Civil Engineering | 20.9 | 19.6 | 20.4 | 19.6 | 1.3 | 0.5 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 106.0 | 103.6 | 100.0 | 97.5 | 2.4 | 6.0 |
| Manufacturing | 266.4 | 264.6 | 262.5 | 261.2 | 1.8 | 3.9 |
| Durable Goods | 187.6 | 186.6 | 181.1 | 180.2 | 1.0 | 6.5 |
| Wood Product Manufacturing | 18.2 | 18.4 | 18.3 | 18.0 | -0.2 | -0.1 |
| Fabricated Metal Products | 17.7 | 17.6 | 17.2 | 17.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Computer and Electronic Products | 21.7 | 21.7 | 22.1 | 22.0 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| Transportation Equipment | 78.7 | 77.8 | 73.0 | 72.9 | 0.9 | 5.7 |
| Aerospace Products and Parts | 65.7 | 65.0 | 60.8 | 61.0 | 0.7 | 4.9 |
| Nondurable Goods | 78.8 | 78.0 | 81.4 | 81.0 | 0.8 | -2.6 |
| Food Manufacturing | 32.5 | 32.0 | 33.7 2/ | 33.6 2/ | 0.5 | -1.2 |
| Wholesale Trade | 120.9 | 120.2 | 118.9 | 118.9 | 0.7 | 2.0 |
| Retail Trade | 315.6 | 312.7 | 307.2 | 303.4 | 2.9 | 8.4 |
| Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers | 43.2 | 43.1 | 42.2 | 41.9 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 60.4 | 59.7 | 59.3 | 58.3 | 0.7 | 1.1 |
| Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores | 24.8 | 24.3 | 23.6 | 23.2 | 0.5 | 1.2 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 55.9 | 55.9 | 53.3 | 52.7 | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 91.4 | 90.8 | 88.3 | 87.6 | 0.6 | 3.1 |
| Utilities | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 86.9 | 86.3 | 83.9 | 83.2 | 0.6 | 3.0 |
| Air Transportation | 12.0 | 12.1 | 12.4 | 12.4 | -0.1 | -0.4 |
| Water Transportation | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Truck Transportation | 23.5 | 23.4 | 22.8 | 22.6 | 0.1 | 0.7 |
| Support Activities for Transportation | 16.8 | 16.6 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Support Activities for Water Transportation | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Warehousing and Storage | 9.4 | 9.2 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 0.2 | 1.5 |
| Information | 92.0 | 91.9 | 92.5 | 92.0 | 0.1 | -0.5 |
| Software Publishers | 40.3 | 40.6 | 38.7 | 38.7 | -0.3 | 1.6 |
| Telecommunications | 24.8 | 25.0 | 26.9 | 26.7 | -0.2 | -2.1 |
| Financial Activities | 152.7 | 151.9 | 151.7 | 151.1 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Finance and Insurance | 102.6 | 102.4 | 102.7 | 102.6 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| Credit Intermediation and Related Activities | 52.7 | 52.6 | 53.3 | 53.3 | 0.1 | -0.6 |
| Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 38.3 | 38.2 | 38.1 | 38.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Real Estate and Rental Leasing | 50.1 | 49.5 | 49.0 | 48.5 | 0.6 | 1.1 |
| Professional and Business Services | 312.5 | 310.6 | 300.1 | 298.9 | 1.9 | 12.4 |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 139.2 | 139.9 | 134.8 | 136.3 | -0.7 | 4.4 |
| Legal Services | 21.0 | 20.9 | 20.7 | 20.7 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services | 31.8 | 31.8 | 31.7 | 31.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Computer Systems Design and Related Services | 21.7 | 21.7 | 21.1 | 21.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 33.5 | 33.5 | 33.0 | 32.8 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Admin., Suppt. Svcs., Waste Mgmt., and Remediation | 139.8 | 137.2 | 132.3 | 129.8 | 2.6 | 7.5 |
| Employment Services | 49.8 | 48.4 | 45.5 | 44.2 | 1.4 | 4.3 |
| Education and Health Services | 330.8 | 329.3 | 321.8 | 320.8 | 1.5 | 9.0 |
| Educational Services | 45.4 | 45.6 | 45.6 | 45.6 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
| Hospitals | 64.1 | 63.6 | 62.4 | 62.3 | 0.5 | 1.7 |
| Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 54.2 | 53.9 | 52.7 | 52.6 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| Social Assistance | 49.9 | 49.5 | 48.1 | 47.7 | 0.4 | 1.8 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 261.1 | 254.9 | 258.1 | 252.3 | 6.2 | 3.0 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 45.6 | 44.1 | 45.1 | 43.9 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| Accommodation | 29.6 | 28.5 | 28.9 | 27.8 | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | 185.9 | 182.3 | 184.1 | 180.6 | 3.6 | 1.8 |
| Government | 536.0 | 533.9 | 532.2 | 530.4 | 2.1 | 3.8 |
| Federal | 69.6 | 69.1 | 69.2 | 69.1 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| State | 153.3 | 153.1 | 151.6 | 151.6 | 0.2 | 1.7 |
| State Educational Services | 85.3 | 85.3 | 84.4 | 84.7 | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Local | 313.1 | 311.7 | 311.4 | 309.7 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
| Local Educational Services | 156.9 | 157.1 | 156.5 | 156.9 | -0.2 | 0.4 |
| Workers in Labor-Management Disputes | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | -0.2 |

¹Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, & private household employees. Includes all full- & part-time wage & salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. ²Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management dispute.

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State

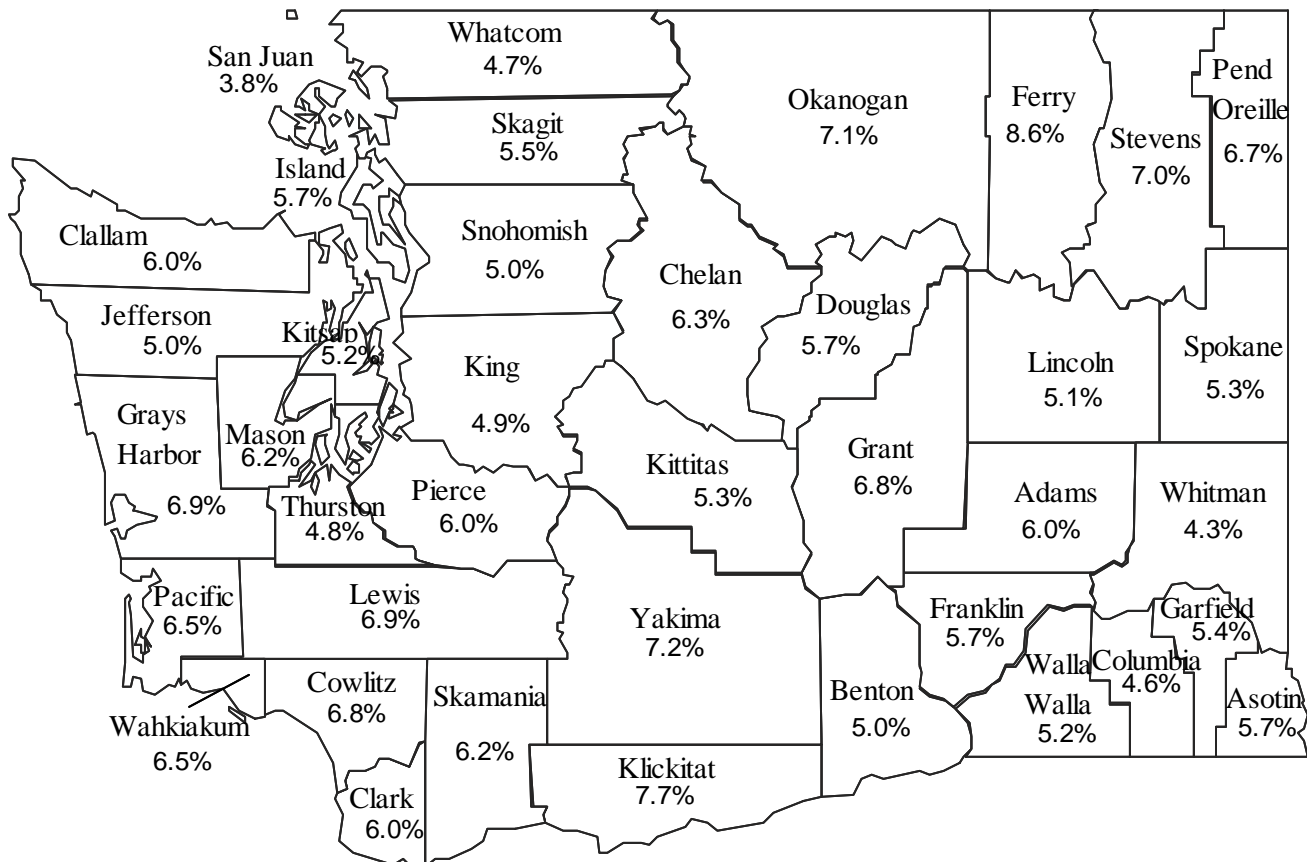
| <i>(In Thousands)</i> | May 2005 (Prel) | April 2005 (Rev) | May 2004 (Rev) | April 2004 (Rev) |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment:</i> | | | | |
| Washington State | 5.7% | 5.5% | 6.2% | 6.3% |
| United States | 5.1% | 5.2% | 5.6% | 5.5% |
| <i>Not Seasonally Adjusted:</i> | | | | |
| Resident Civilian Labor Force | 3,260.4 | 3,247.4 | 3,213.5 | 3,208.1 |
| Employment | 3,084.4 | 3,071.2 | 3,021.8 | 3,007.5 |
| Unemployment | 176.0 | 176.2 | 191.7 | 200.6 |
| Percent of Labor Force | 5.4% | 5.4% | 6.0% | 6.3% |

Unemployment Rates by County, May 2005

Washington State = 5.4%

United States = 4.9%

Not Seasonally Adjusted



Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas 1/

| Not Seasonally Adjusted | May 2005 Preliminary | | | | April 2005 Revised | | | | May 2004 Revised | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | Labor Force | Employ- ment | Unemploy- ment | Unemploy- ment Rate | Labor Force | Employ- ment | Unemploy- ment | Unemploy- ment Rate | Labor Force | Employ- ment | Unemploy- ment | Unemploy- ment Rate |
| Washington State Total | 3,260,400 | 3,084,400 | 176,000 | 5.4 | 3,247,400 | 3,071,200 | 176,200 | 5.4 | 3,213,500 | 3,021,800 | 191,700 | 6.0 |
| Bellingham MSA | 104,400 | 99,500 | 4,900 | 4.7 | 104,000 | 98,800 | 5,200 | 5.0 | 99,600 | 94,300 | 5,300 | 5.3 |
| Bremerton MSA | 122,800 | 116,500 | 6,400 | 5.2 | 123,400 | 116,600 | 6,800 | 5.5 | 119,000 | 112,300 | 6,700 | 5.6 |
| Kennecock-Richland-Pasco MSA . . | 117,900 | 111,900 | 6,100 | 5.2 | 117,500 | 111,100 | 6,400 | 5.5 | 113,600 | 107,300 | 6,300 | 5.6 |
| Benton County 2/ | 89,800 | 85,400 | 4,500 | 5.0 | 89,300 | 84,700 | 4,600 | 5.1 | 86,600 | 81,800 | 4,700 | 5.4 |
| Franklin County 2/ | 28,100 | 26,500 | 1,600 | 5.7 | 28,200 | 26,300 | 1,800 | 6.5 | 27,000 | 25,400 | 1,600 | 6.0 |
| Longview MSA (Cowlitz) | 44,040 | 41,030 | 3,010 | 6.8 | 44,190 | 40,850 | 3,340 | 7.5 | 42,950 | 39,480 | 3,460 | 8.1 |
| Mt. Vernon-Anacortes MSA (Skagit) | 57,050 | 53,890 | 3,160 | 5.5 | 57,310 | 53,840 | 3,460 | 6.0 | 53,320 | 49,840 | 3,480 | 6.5 |
| Olympia MSA | 124,500 | 118,500 | 6,000 | 4.8 | 125,400 | 118,800 | 6,500 | 5.2 | 119,200 | 112,800 | 6,400 | 5.4 |
| Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MD* | 1,348,400 | 1,282,500 | 65,900 | 4.9 | 1,332,000 | 1,274,900 | 57,100 | 4.3 | 1,328,900 | 1,258,100 | 70,700 | 5.3 |
| King County 2/ | 1,007,300 | 958,400 | 48,900 | 4.9 | 994,600 | 952,700 | 42,000 | 4.2 | 991,600 | 940,200 | 51,500 | 5.2 |
| Snohomish County 2/ | 341,100 | 324,100 | 17,000 | 5.0 | 337,300 | 322,200 | 15,100 | 4.5 | 337,200 | 318,000 | 19,200 | 5.7 |
| Spokane MSA | 227,100 | 215,000 | 12,100 | 5.3 | 227,900 | 214,800 | 13,100 | 5.8 | 222,300 | 209,000 | 13,300 | 6.0 |
| Tacoma Metropolitan Division | 371,000 | 348,900 | 22,100 | 6.0 | 372,900 | 349,200 | 23,700 | 6.4 | 372,600 | 347,600 | 25,000 | 6.7 |
| Wenatchee MSA | 56,620 | 53,190 | 3,430 | 6.1 | 56,100 | 52,380 | 3,710 | 6.6 | 66,560 | 62,650 | 3,900 | 5.9 |
| Chelan County 2/ | 37,730 | 35,370 | 2,360 | 6.3 | 37,390 | 34,830 | 2,560 | 6.8 | 44,360 | 41,660 | 2,700 | 6.1 |
| Douglas County 2/ | 18,890 | 17,820 | 1,070 | 5.7 | 18,710 | 17,550 | 1,160 | 6.2 | 22,190 | 20,990 | 1,200 | 5.4 |
| Yakima MSA | 114,800 | 106,600 | 8,300 | 7.2 | 114,500 | 105,100 | 9,300 | 8.2 | 113,000 | 103,400 | 9,600 | 8.5 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aberdeen LMA (Grays Harbor) . . . | 31,850 | 29,640 | 2,210 | 6.9 | 32,110 | 29,610 | 2,500 | 7.8 | 30,470 | 28,100 | 2,370 | 7.8 |
| Centralia LMA (Lewis) | 31,780 | 29,590 | 2,190 | 6.9 | 31,870 | 29,360 | 2,510 | 7.9 | 30,150 | 27,770 | 2,380 | 7.9 |
| Ellensburg LMA (Kittitas) | 19,500 | 18,470 | 1,030 | 5.3 | 19,880 | 18,710 | 1,160 | 5.8 | 19,040 | 17,880 | 1,170 | 6.1 |
| Moses Lake LMA (Grant) | 37,760 | 35,190 | 2,570 | 6.8 | 36,560 | 33,730 | 2,830 | 7.7 | 37,630 | 34,610 | 3,020 | 8.0 |
| Oak Harbor LMA (Island County) . | 32,300 | 30,400 | 1,800 | 5.7 | 32,400 | 30,500 | 2,000 | 6.0 | 31,600 | 29,600 | 2,000 | 6.3 |
| Port Angeles LMA (Clallam) | 28,780 | 27,050 | 1,730 | 6.0 | 28,750 | 26,870 | 1,880 | 6.6 | 33,280 | 31,470 | 1,810 | 5.4 |
| Pullman LMA (Whitman) | 21,100 | 20,190 | 900 | 4.3 | 21,630 | 20,700 | 930 | 4.3 | 20,210 | 19,370 | 830 | 4.1 |
| Shelton LMA (Mason) | 23,940 | 22,450 | 1,490 | 6.2 | 24,070 | 22,450 | 1,620 | 6.7 | 23,080 | 21,460 | 1,620 | 7.0 |
| Walla Walla LMA (Walla Walla) . . | 29,750 | 28,220 | 1,530 | 5.2 | 29,550 | 27,840 | 1,710 | 5.8 | 29,410 | 27,880 | 1,530 | 5.2 |
| Adams | 8,160 | 7,670 | 490 | 6.0 | 7,810 | 7,290 | 520 | 6.6 | 7,930 | 7,370 | 570 | 7.1 |
| Asotin 2/ | 10,610 | 10,010 | 610 | 5.7 | 10,680 | 10,070 | 620 | 5.8 | 10,280 | 9,710 | 570 | 5.5 |
| Clark 2/ | 194,500 | 182,800 | 11,700 | 6.0 | 195,800 | 184,000 | 11,800 | 6.0 | 189,700 | 177,100 | 12,600 | 6.7 |
| Columbia | 2,220 | 2,120 | 100 | 4.6 | 2,140 | 2,010 | 130 | 5.9 | 2,220 | 2,100 | 120 | 5.3 |
| Ferry | 2,980 | 2,720 | 260 | 8.6 | 2,960 | 2,650 | 320 | 10.7 | 2,880 | 2,580 | 300 | 10.4 |
| Garfield | 1,110 | 1,050 | 60 | 5.4 | 1,110 | 1,040 | 60 | 5.8 | 1,110 | 1,050 | 50 | 4.6 |
| Jefferson | 13,730 | 13,040 | 690 | 5.0 | 13,790 | 13,040 | 750 | 5.4 | 13,600 | 12,850 | 750 | 5.5 |
| Klickitat | 9,290 | 8,570 | 710 | 7.7 | 9,280 | 8,510 | 760 | 8.2 | 9,270 | 8,480 | 790 | 8.5 |
| Lincoln | 4,920 | 4,670 | 250 | 5.1 | 4,880 | 4,590 | 290 | 5.9 | 4,730 | 4,450 | 280 | 5.8 |
| Okanogan | 19,170 | 17,820 | 1,360 | 7.1 | 18,860 | 17,290 | 1,570 | 8.3 | 19,320 | 17,810 | 1,510 | 7.8 |
| Pacific | 9,490 | 8,880 | 610 | 6.5 | 9,460 | 8,760 | 700 | 7.4 | 9,050 | 8,430 | 620 | 6.8 |
| Pend Oreille | 5,190 | 4,840 | 350 | 6.7 | 5,230 | 4,770 | 460 | 8.8 | 4,990 | 4,590 | 400 | 8.0 |
| San Juan | 8,530 | 8,200 | 330 | 3.8 | 8,250 | 7,900 | 350 | 4.3 | 8,300 | 7,960 | 340 | 4.1 |
| Skamania 2/ | 4,900 | 4,600 | 300 | 6.2 | 4,980 | 4,630 | 350 | 7.1 | 4,790 | 4,450 | 340 | 7.0 |
| Stevens | 18,480 | 17,200 | 1,290 | 7.0 | 18,560 | 17,030 | 1,520 | 8.2 | 17,840 | 16,500 | 1,330 | 7.5 |
| Wahkiakum | 1,640 | 1,540 | 110 | 6.5 | 1,660 | 1,530 | 130 | 7.8 | 1,600 | 1,480 | 110 | 7.1 |

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

2/ Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.

Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

*Metropolitan Division